

The forest products industry plays a valuable role in the life of every American, every day. From paper and packaging to wood products, tissue, and other personal care items, paper and wood products are at the heart of modern life and a modern economy. In total, the industry employs about 900,000 Americans nationwide and manufactures over \$280 billion in products every year. That is nearly 4 percent of the current U.S. manufacturing GDP.

In addition to cochairing the Paper and Packaging Caucus, I am also a co-chair of the Senate Recycling Caucus. In this dual capacity, I have seen the success the forest products industry has had in pairing economic growth with respect for the environment. Be it through the use of carbon-neutral biomass energy or the successful implementation of voluntary recycling programs that now reach 96 percent of Americans, the forest products industry is leading by example.

Last year, I had the opportunity to see firsthand how the forest industry contributes to the economy of my State. Congressman BRUCE WESTERMAN and I visited timber-rich south Arkansas on our "Seed to Sawmill" tour. We learned about proper forest management and the positive environmental impacts achieved through conservation efforts. We also visited a seedling nursery, working private forests, state-of-the-art processing facilities, and the U.S. Forest Service's Experimental Forest in Crossett.

It is clear that the forest products industry contributes a great deal to Arkansas and to the U.S. economy overall. That is why it is important for us to highlight how forest products improve our lives, help grow our economy, and promote healthy environmental practices.

I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating National Forest Products Week and reflect on the many ways this recyclable and renewable resource impacts our daily lives for the better. Thank you for the opportunity to recognize the hard-working professionals of the forest products industry in the great State of Arkansas.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING COMPREHENSIVE JUVENILE SERVICES, INC.

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize an organization that is committed to redirecting the lives of youth and their families in western Arkansas. Comprehensive Juvenile Services, Inc., of Fort Smith, AR, helps youth who experience difficulty within their families, have problems in school, or face other challenges that result in them being at risk of or referred to the juvenile justice system. Comprehensive Juvenile Services is celebrating 40 years of incredible, invaluable service to the community, and I want to congratulate them on this milestone.

Incorporated in 1976, Comprehensive Juvenile Services is a private, non-profit community-based youth services agency. It serves 1,000 youth each year in Sebastian, Crawford, Franklin, Logan, Scott, Polk, and Montgomery Counties. CJS is supported by and receives guidance from community leaders as it seeks to help children and youth who are susceptible to delinquency or have encountered legal problems and need positive influences to help get back on track toward a happy and successful adolescence.

CJS provides support to these children and their families in a variety of ways. It employs caseworkers to assess a youth's individual problems and develop case plans, provides aftercare to those in custody of the Department of Youth Services, offers one-on-one mentoring opportunities, operates an emergency shelter for at-risk youth, and features other programs including treatment for major behavioral problems, mental health assessments, and therapy and parenting classes.

The commitment that CJS has demonstrated for youth in western Arkansas is inspiring. The men and women of the agency put their hearts and souls into helping children and teens improve their situations and strive for better outcomes at home, at school, and in life generally. In one of many success stories, a former client named Sherry went through a difficult adoption where she experienced major conflict with her adopted family. Through the help of Community Juvenile Services, Sherry completed a program at the Girls Shelter of Fort Smith and is now a Department of Child and Family Services caseworker herself, advocating for children and helping to make a difference in their lives the same way that CJS did in hers.

I am so proud of the work that Comprehensive Juvenile Services has done over the past 40 years. They truly are changing lives, one child at a time. I want to congratulate everyone involved with CJS on a job well done, and I look forward to hearing many more success stories in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO RONALD K. LORENTZEN

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Mr. Ronald K. Lorentzen, a dedicated public servant who has spent his career advocating for American workers and businesses. Mr. Lorentzen retired on June 30, 2017, after more than three decades of government service.

Born in the blue-collar town of Ash-  
tabula, OH—a great hometown, as my wife Connie can attest—Mr. Lorentzen's roots are evident in his life's work. Too often, especially in trade policy, representatives and policymakers fail to live up to the promises they have made to working families, but not Mr. Lorentzen. He never forgot where he came from, and he never forgot the workers who are too often left behind by our trade policy.

In his roles at the International Trade Administration, he has been a leader in our government's efforts to combat unfair trade practices and hold countries that cheat the rules accountable. He served as lead negotiator for the U.S. and chairman of the Steel Committee at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, where he worked to address steel overcapacity within the U.S. Market. While we know we have a lot more work to do to create a truly level playing field for our steel industry, his work helped shape a more fair international steel market for American companies.

In addition, Mr. Lorentzen led U.S. delegations before the North American Steel Trade Committee, NASTC. He helped ensure the NASTC fulfilled its mission as a forum for NAFTA steel countries to build consensus and develop united positions on areas of common concern. A firm grasp of the facts and diplomatic skill made him a strong and effective advocate for U.S. manufacturers.

Through his many roles in government, Mr. Lorentzen has served this country and its working families. He has stood up for workers in my State, and his efforts have helped save jobs. When we enforce our trade policies and hold accountable those who cheat the international trade system, we are ensuring our workers and businesses have access to a level playing field. Mr. Lorentzen has been a leader in that fight.

Mr. Lorentzen will be remembered for his compassion, work ethic, and integrity. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in thanking him for his service and wishing him all the best on his retirement.●

#### 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASHER'S CHOCOLATES

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and honor Chester Asher Candy Co., Inc., "Asher's Chocolates," as it celebrates the 125th anniversary of its founding in Pennsylvania.

In 1892, Chester A. Asher founded Asher's Chocolates in the city of Philadelphia, near Independence Hall. A farm boy from Scotland, who had previously lived in Canada, Chester had a "passion for chocolates" and a "knack for getting to the heart of a sugar craving." In 1899, he moved the company to the historical area of Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia. Chester worked tirelessly to perfect his candies and chocolates and was constantly searching for innovative ways to please his customers.

Following World War II, Chester's four sons took over the business, and they subsequently passed the company on to their sons in their retirement. After their father's passing in 1968, the third generation of Ashers, brothers John "Jack" and Bob Asher, assumed leadership of the company. Asher's Chocolates quickly grew from the

brothers producing each piece of candy individually with just two candy-making machines to building a warehouse and being regarded throughout the East Coast as a well-known candy company. While both of the third-generation brothers were vital to the company's increasing success, it was Jack who became lovingly referred to as, "the Candy Man."

Jack was very engaged in hands-on management of the company. When he wasn't on the ground overseeing production, Jack served as a volunteer firefighter with the Wissahickon and Flourtown fire companies. Jack also became a prominent member of the community by serving on the boards of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown and the historic Cliveden, where he sponsored the Battle of Germantown reenactment for 40 years. Jack's proactive involvement and dedication to the community did not go unrecognized. In 1988, the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce awarded Jack the Small Business Person of the Year award, and in 2006, he was inducted into the National Confectionary Sales Association's Candy Hall of Fame. Though it is with great sadness that Jack Asher passed away in September of 2017, his legacy will undoubtedly continue through the life of Asher's Chocolates.

While over a century has passed since its founding, Asher's Chocolates still remains family owned. Currently, Jeff, a fourth-generation Asher, serves as the CEO of Asher's Chocolates and believes it is his family's "stubborn, common commitment to providing excellent chocolate at an affordable price" that has allowed Asher's Chocolates to remain in business for so long. Today Asher's Chocolates has expanded its business, selling over 3.3 million pounds of candy each year, employing over 100 people, and supplying delicious treats on a national and worldwide level to Canada, Mexico, Japan, China, South America, and Europe.

As Asher's Chocolates has reached global success, I am honored it calls Pennsylvania home. Founded by a Scottish man who emigrated from Canada and was devoted to operating a family-run business, Asher's Chocolates is rich in both diversity and tradition. While their impact is great and long-standing, Asher's Chocolates hasn't lost sight of what is important: family and "one of life's sweetest pleasures . . . [is] a simple box of chocolate." Asher's Chocolates serves as a symbol of success, history, and family, and I commend the Asher family and the company's employees on the 125th anniversary of its founding.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CHANCE BROWN

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Chance Brown, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Chance is a graduate of Douglas High School in Box Elder, SD, and a recent

graduate of Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO, having earned degrees in sociology, political science, and business administration. He is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Chance Brown for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DAN KNUTSON

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Dan Knutson, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Dan is a graduate of Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, SD, and a recent graduate of Augustana University, having earned a degree in psychology. He is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Dan Knutson for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on October 11, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1617. An act to designate the checkpoint of the United States Border Patrol located on United States Highway 77 North in Sarita, Texas, as the "Javier Vega, Jr. Border Patrol Checkpoint".

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on October 12, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 190. An act to provide for consideration of the extension under the Energy Policy and

Conservation Act of non-application of No-Load Mode energy efficiency standards to certain security or life safety alarms or surveillance systems, and for other purposes.

S. 920. An act to establish a National Clinical Care Commission.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 585. An act to provide greater whistleblower protections for Federal employees, increased awareness of Federal whistleblower protections, and increased accountability and required discipline for the Federal supervisors who retaliate against whistleblowers, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 294. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2700 Cullen Boulevard in Pearland, Texas, as the "Endy Nddiobong Ekpanya Post Office Building".

H.R. 378. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to enhance the authority under which Federal agencies may pay cash awards to employees for making cost saving disclosures, and for other purposes.

H.R. 452. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 324 West Saint Louis Street in Pacific, Missouri, as the "Specialist Jeffrey L. White, Jr. Post Office".

H.R. 1858. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4514 Williamson Trail in Liberty, Pennsylvania, as the "Staff Sergeant Ryan Scott Ostrom Post Office".

H.R. 2105. An act to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to disseminate guidance to help reduce small business cybersecurity risks, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2196. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to allow whistleblowers to disclose information to certain recipients.

H.R. 2229. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide permanent authority for judicial review of certain Merit Systems Protection Board decisions relating to whistleblowers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2254. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2635 Napa Street in Vallejo, California, as the "Janet Capello Post Office Building".

H.R. 2302. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 259 Nassau Street, Suite 2 in Princeton, New Jersey, as the "Dr. John F. Nash, Jr. Post Office".

H.R. 2464. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 New Chardon Street Lobby in Boston, Massachusetts, as the "John Fitzgerald Kennedy Post Office".

H.R. 2763. An act to amend the Small Business Act to improve the Small Business Innovation Research program and Small Business Technology Transfer program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2989. An act to establish the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission.

H.R. 3031. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for flexibility in making withdrawals from a Thrift Savings Plan account, and for other purposes.